



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/076,664      | 02/19/2002  | Katsuhiko Tsunehara  | ASAM.0040           | 1722             |

7590 05/06/2005

Stanley P. Fisher  
Reed Smith Hazel & Thomas LLP  
Suite 1400  
3110 Fairview Park Drive  
Falls Church, VA 22042-4503

| EXAMINER |
|----------|
|----------|

APPIAH, CHARLES NANA

| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2686

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|   |                        |                     |  |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Response to Rule 312 Communication</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|   | 10/076,664             | TSUNEHARA ET AL.    |  |
|   | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|   | Charles Appiah         | 2686                |  |

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

1. ☒ The amendment filed on 21 March 2005 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) ☐ entered.
- b) ☐ entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) ☐ disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.  
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) ☒ disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) ☐ entered in part. See explanation below.

*The amendment to claims 2, 10 and 12 affects the scope of the invention as defined by the claims.*

 4/26/05  
**CHARLES APPIAH**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**